

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of this Amendment, which cancels claims 14-23, 28-32 and 46-47.

Independent Claim 2

Claim 2 recites performing the steps of searching, analyzing and displaying. These steps are performed WHILE receiving the abbreviated textual command instead of waiting until after the entire abbreviated textual command is received.

This is not disclosed by the cited references to Beauregard and Eide even in combination. Any search, analysis or display performed by these references is performed only AFTER the command is completely received. Therefore, claim 2 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Independent Claim 37

Claim 37 recites receiving a portion of an abbreviated textual command. Before the entire command is received, the received portion of the command is compared to a database to determine a probable subset of complete commands.

The Office Action (page 3, line 3) paraphrases the last step as “comparing the partially input string to stored abbreviated commands”. This is supported in the originally filed application at paragraphs [0020], [0023] and [0024]. Specifically, the “comparing” function is exemplified in paragraphs [0020] and [0023] as “[T]he natural language search engine 32 attempts to associate the input with an exact match in . . . a database 42. . . If the natural language search engine 32 finds more than one or no matches at step 76, however, than a probability analysis at steps 82 and 84 is undertaken to find a suitable match . . . to narrow the search results of step 76 to the user command most probably desired by the user.”

Paragraph [0024] continues “In step 88, **the user** may select from the list of possible commands, or alternatively **may narrow the list by entering more text.**” The fact that the user narrows the list in this example by continuing to enter text means the aforementioned “comparing” step was performed by the search engine before the entire textual command was received (ex: before the ENTER key is pressed indicating the end of a text string).

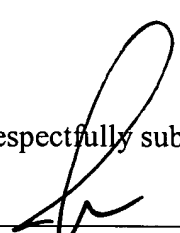
This claim limitation, of comparing a partially input string to stored commands, is thus supported by the original specification. Yet it is not disclosed by the cited references to Beauregard and Eide even in combination. Therefore, claim 37 is patentable over the prior art.

Dependent Claims 3-13 and 38-45

The remaining claims all depend from base claims that are explained above to be patentable over the prior art. The limitations that the dependent claims add to the base claims distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, the dependent claims are also patentable.

The application is therefore now in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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